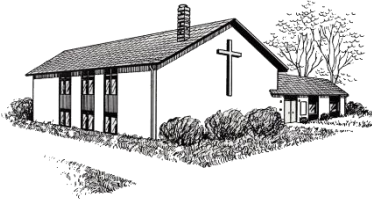


North Kildonan United Church
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Our Mission...

to be an accepting Christian community dedicated to living, sharing and teaching the Word of God.

We respect all aspects of people including race, ethnicity, gender expression, sexual orientation, socio-economic background, age, religion, mental wellness, and ability.

The Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 19th, 2023

The asterisk invites all to stand, if they are able. **Bold print indicates a congregational response.*

PREPARING FOR THE WORD

PRELUDE *(Music played with permission under license #A-620529 One License)*

~Joanne Diplock

WELCOME

LIFE and WORK of the CONGREGATION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT of the LAND

We acknowledge that we meet in Treaty 1 land, the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe, Cree and Dakota peoples, and the homeland of the Metis nation. We are thankful for these first inhabitants, and we commit to working together towards justice, truth and reconciliation.

LIGHTING of the CHRIST CANDLE and the UKRAINE CANDLE

*May the light of Christ, rising in glory,
banish all darkness from our hearts and minds. Amen.*

**And may the light of this Ukraine Candle
help us to be mindful of our Ukrainian sisters and brothers in need.**

CALL to WORSHIP

*O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.*

*Sing, and give praise to God's name;
tell the good news of salvation from day to day.*

PRAYER of the DAY

**Lord Jesus Christ,
you called your disciples to go forward with you
on the way to the cross.
Since you first walked that road**

countless millions have followed you.
In all that we do as your disciples,
save us from false familiarity with your journey.
May we never presume to step into your shoes,
but make us small enough to fit our own,
and to walk in love and wonder behind you. Amen.

***HYMN: VU #266 – "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"**

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(Newton/Excell)

~Joanne Diplock

- 1 Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.**
- 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.**
- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.**
- 4 The Lord has promised good to me,
this word my hope secures;
God will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.**
- 5 When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.**

PRAYER of CONFESSION

**Everlasting God,
fountain of all life and the true home of every heart:
our hearts are restless until they rest in you.
Yet we confess that our hearts have been enslaved
by selfish passion and base desire.
We have sought after many things
and have neglected the one thing needful.
We have not loved you with our whole hearts;
help us to turn to you and find forgiveness.
Lead us home, that we may again find in you
our life and joy and peace. Amen.**

SILENT PRAYER and ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

THE WORD OF GOD

LEARNING TIME & PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

Scripture Reader: *Del Sexsmith*

Hebrew Scripture: **Psalm 23**

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

**He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.**

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;

**for you are with me; your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.**

*You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.*

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.**

The Epistle: **Ephesians 5: 8-14**

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, 'Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'

Response: *This is the Word of God.*

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM: "Yes, My Jesus Loves Me"

(McDonald)

(Music played with permission under license #A-620529 One License)

~Joanne Diplock

Scripture Reader: Rev. Don Johnson

The Gospel: **John 9: 1-41**

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.' They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.'

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.' He said, 'He is a prophet.'

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.' His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.'

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, 'Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.' He answered, 'I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He answered them, 'I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you

want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?’ Then they reviled him, saying, ‘You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.’ The man answered, ‘Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.’ They answered him, ‘You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?’ And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, ‘Do you believe in the Son of Man?’ He answered, ‘And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.’ Jesus said to him, ‘You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.’ He said, ‘Lord, I believe.’ And he worshipped him. Jesus said, ‘I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.’ Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, ‘Surely we are not blind, are we?’ Jesus said to them, ‘If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, “We see”, your sin remains.

Response: *The Gospel of Christ.*

Thanks be to God.

*HYMN: *VU #508 – “Just As I Am”*

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(Elliott/Bradbury)

~Joanne Diplock

- 1 Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidd’st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**
- 2 Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
sight, riches, healing of the mind,
yea, all I need, in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**
- 3 Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**
- 4 Just as I am, thy love unknown
has broken every barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

SERMON ~Rev. Don Johnson

***HYMN: VU #346 – "There in God's Garden"**

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(Pécselyi/Scott)

~Joanne Diplock

- 1 There in God's garden stands the Tree of Wisdom,
whose leaves hold forth the healing of the nation;
Tree of all knowledge, Tree of all compassion,
Tree of all beauty.**
- 2 Its name is Jesus, name that says, 'Our Saviour!'
There on its branches see the scars of suffering;
see where the tendrils of our human selfhood
feed on its lifeblood.**
- 3 Thorns not his own are tangled in its foliage;
our greed has starved it; our despite has choked it.
Yet, look! It lives! Its grief has not destroyed it,
nor fire consumed it.**
- 4 See how its branches reach to us in welcome;
hear what the Voice says, 'Come to me, ye weary!
Give me your sickness, give me all your sorrow,
I will give blessing.'**

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS

Offertory Music *(Music played with permission under license #A-620529 One License)*

~Joanne Diplock

Offertory Prayer

**Out of your providing, O God,
we make this offering
brought from our daily living.
Sanctify your gift,
and bless the life from which it comes,
that with a cheerful spirit
and an ungrudging heart
we may be devoted to your service;
through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

PRAYERS

***HYMN: VU #273 – "The King of Love"**

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(Baker/Stanford)

~Joanne Diplock

- 1 The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine forever.**

- 2 Where streams of living water flow
my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow
with food celestial feedeth.**
- 3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed;
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home rejoicing brought me.**
- 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.**
- 5 Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
thy unction grace bestoweth;
and O what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!**
- 6 And so through all the length of days
thy goodness faileth never:
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever!**

***THE BLESSING**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION**

**May the Lord go with you,
let him take your hand.
Keep His love within you,
until we meet again. Amen.**

POSTLUDE *(Music played with permission under license #A-620529 One License)*

~Joanne Diplock